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The south is behind us; the east, ~~to~~ the right  
hand, & the west to the left;

Lesson IX. "

Why the Sun rises & sets.

Lesson X. Mid-day Lines.

Part II. Map Lessons. 71.

Lesson XX

The Atlantic Ocean

The Atlantic Ocean is much smaller,  
than the Pacific, but is more important  
to us English ships are continually  
coming & going upon it, & can get to  
other waters, only by passing through  
the Atlantic.

The bed is unlike that of the Pacific.  
The high places do not often rise into  
mountains which show above water,  
as groups of islands, but they are  
long level heights, a great way wide,  
water, although much higher than the  
rest of the ocean bottom. Along one of  
these levels the telegraph cable is laid by  
which messages are sent to America.  
He - He

by the grinder ice was dry land down  
to the 13th century. The party of Dollart in  
the province of Groningen was ~~the~~ the result  
of the inundation of 1274, which swallowed  
up forty four villages. Several times since  
has this province suffered from similar  
<sup>as the Dutch were</sup> calamities. The ~~annals of the province~~  
<sup>has been, yet more unfortunate</sup> ofriesland however, ~~has been~~ the most  
~~extraordinary series of disasters from~~  
the ocean: over thirty inundations are  
on record - three sometimes occurring in  
a <sup>one</sup> single year, & as many as 150,000  
persons <sup>having been</sup> ~~being~~ sometimes carried off by  
a single flood.

But Holland is exposed to internal  
floods even more disastrous than  
these, caused by the blocking up of  
the rivers by the ice when the thaw  
sets in. All the ice of the Rhine & Meuse  
must necessarily pass the Dutch  
rivers: if the ice on the German Rhine  
lets loose before there are ice, it forms  
itself into one solid dam stretching  
from bank to bank, sometimes two  
miles or more in length, adhering to  
the bed of the river, & rising in ice-bergs  
high above its surface, so as to arrest  
the passage of the waters, which, as it  
rises, must necessarily overflow  
the dykes behind it. In 1739, the ice  
Rhine rose at Mynster seven feet in one day  
& when the waters at last broke the  
ice-dam

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ice-dam. They hurried down ice-bergs  
~~until~~ <sup>until</sup> late as to rise above the houses of  
Dijmegen. This inundation threatened the  
very existence of a large part of Holland  
which, on both banks of the Rhine & Weser  
was laid under water; the ice-bergs  
crossed the polders, sweeping away  
houses that had been built on the  
dykes, & the loss of life of men & cattle  
was enormous; and this is a danger  
which recurs every winter.

A stranger can <sup>not</sup> ~~have~~ <sup>not</sup> a full impression  
of the continual <sup>risk</sup> ~~danger~~ of inundation  
when he walks at the foot of one of  
those vast dykes, & hears the sea  
roaring outside sixteen or twenty  
feet above his head. In like manner  
the actual bed of the Rhine is, in some  
parts, several feet above the surrounding  
country: the river flows on the top  
of a sort of natural embankment-  
formed by the deposits brought down  
by itself in the course of ages.  
Holland is so intercrossed with canals,  
that, to a person looking down from a  
balloon, they would have the appearance  
of a network stretching over the whole  
country: not narrow canals, wide enough  
for a couple of barges, as in England,  
but great water-passages, sixty feet  
across, & raised high above the  
adjoining country, for the water is  
pumped up off the plains to these high  
channels.



drains, or rather, raised by the water wheels, attached to windmills. These innumerable canals are made, in the first place, to carry off the superfluous water of the country; they also serve as means of communication, & every village has water-ways which connect it with all the places round. In winter, too, these canals serve a pleasant purpose; the Dutch excel in skating & not only glide from village to village to village upon their business in this way, but run races, perhaps of a score of miles, & perform a variety of dances & figures, balancing vases or baskets on their heads the while, to show their dexterity. But all about their skating, & sledging, & the curious ice-boats of Holland, & the pleasant ways of the Dutch people may be read at large in the story of "The Silver Skates".

The canals serve a third use. They act as walls, & hedges: fields, gardens, & houses are surrounded by canals or moats, as, in other countries, by fences; & they afford an even better protection.

On more defence Holland enjoys against its irrepressible enemy. This time, a natural bulwark, the dunes, or sand-banks which extend along the coast of Holland from Dunbar, nearly without interruption, to the Helder. These vary in breadth from one

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was so rich & splendid: the city is still famous for its beautiful Cathedral.

Further down in the fens rising among the marshes of Ely Dale, was the great Abbey of Ely, where the glorious Minister still stands. Very handy was this Abbey for the Danes; for in those days, the sea came up to the very walls of Ely; & one of the oldest war songs we have left, how the Northmen heard the monks chanting their hymns as they roared at night round the Abbey walls. Then, in Ely too, there was Ramsey Abbey, with its learned monks, nor were there all: the Lady Godiva had the music of many convent bells around her, & she had many monks & priests to advise her; some, holy & good, & some, only proudly of fair.

Dear as the monks were to his mother, young Hereward, her son, loved them not: while he was yet a boy, his mother thought to make him a monk, & sent him to his uncle Brant, who was Abbot of Peterborough. The boy loved his uncle & his uncle loved him; but the king had brought many Norman monks into the land, whose ways were not the ways of the English people. At Peterborough, was one of these Normans, named Herlewin, who did a cruel thing to the boy, ~~that~~ he

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of whom the law of England should have  
no care, but any man might slay him,  
or take what was his.

It was bitter enough to young Hereward when  
he found that, for his lawless ways, he  
had no more a place in his own home or  
his own land; & that he must go forth  
to seek his fortune without his mother's  
hiss or his father's blessings.

We have no room to tell of all the strange  
things that befel him over sea:—how he  
fought for foreign king in strange lands;  
how he slew a white bear whose coat  
he ever afterwards slept upon; how he  
became a mighty warrior that no man  
could stand before. How he won a  
lovely lady to be his bride; how she  
gave him a coat of magic armour, so  
curiously wrought that neither sword  
nor axe could pierce it. How,  
wherever piece of battle was fought, there  
was Hereward the Wake, & how he was  
always victor, so that men everywhere  
feared his name & his mighty strength.

While Hereward was yet an outlaw,  
there were sad doings in England; the  
Confessor had died, & William the Norman  
had crossed the sea with his ships, &  
Hastings fight had been fought; and  
the Norman knights were everywhere seizing  
houses